

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRAZZA 00454 221544Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 EB-08 AID-05 /036 W
-----019417 231534Z /14

R 211320Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0440
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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DEPT PLEASE ALSO PASS DEPT. OF COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, CF, US
SUBJECT: CONGOLESE REQUEST FOR AMERICAN HOTEL INVESTMENT

1. IN APRIL 18 LETTER TO CHARGE, PRESIDENT'S DIRECTOR
OF CABINET OTSE-MAWANDZA REQUESTS US TO EXPLORE
POSSIBILITIES OF AN AMERICAN HOTEL CHAIN SUCH AS
SHERATON, ICH, OR HILTON BUILDING HOTELS IN CONGO.
COPY OF LETTER BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT (AF/C-KATES).

2. COMMENT: DURING JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, TEAM FFROM
SHERATON INTERNATIONAL IN BRUSSELS VISITED BRAZZAVILLE
AND SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH GOCB TO BUILD ONE HOTEL IN
POINTE-NOIRE AND ANOTHER IN BRAZZAVILLE. WITH
PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO, THEY LAID FIRST STONE FOR
BRAZZAVILLE HOTEL (BRAZZAVILLE A-2 NOTAL). TO DATE,
THAT ALSO SEEMS TO BE LAST STONE TO BE LAID SINCE
BELGIANS WITH WHOM CONGOLESE WERE DEALING HAVE MADE
NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH GOCB OR WITH BELGIAN EMBASSY
IN BRAZZAVILLE, DESPITE EFFORTS BY BOTH THOSE PARTIES.
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IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BELGIANS ARE SKITTISH OVER PURSUING
INVESTMENT IN CONGO SINCE THERE IS (UNRELATED) CASE NOW
BEFORE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ARBITRATION
INVOLVING CONGOLESE CLAIM AGAINST BELGIAN COMPANIES
OVER POOR WORKMANSHIP AT POINTE-NOIRE OIL REFINERY.

3. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS SHERATON'S NAME WHICH ATTRACTED

CONGOLESE AND SHERATON WITH WHICH THEY HAD UNDERSTOOD
THEY WERE DEALING. AND, WE ASSUME THAT BELGIANS
HAD AGREEMENT OF SHERATON HEADQUARTERS IN US TO SIGN
WITH GOCB. WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE IF DEPARTMENT
AND COMMERCE COULD CONTACT SHERATON TO FIND OUT WHERE
MATTER STANDS. DEPARTMENT ALSO MAY WISH TO REQUEST
EMBASSY BRUSSELS FOLLOW-UP WITH SHERATON INTERNATIONAL
OFFICE THERE.
KATZEN

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 21 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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